

**REMARKS**

In response to the Decision on Appeal mailed November 20, 2007, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference has (1) affirmed the Examiner's final rejection of claims 1-16, 18-31, and 33-39; and (2) reversed the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 17, 32, and 40-42.

In view of this decision, Applicant hereby cancels rejected claims 1-16, 18-31 and 33-39.

*Allowable claims 17, 32, 40 and 41 are hereby amended into independent form.*<sup>1</sup> By this amendment, claims 17, 31 and 40-42 are the only pending claims after entry of this amendment.

In view of the above, reconsideration and immediate allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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<sup>1</sup> See MPEP 1206 at pg. 1200-22, col. 2, regarding Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 41.33(a)(2).